natural rubber. The productivity of rubber in the country has increased from 1130 kg / ha in 1991-92 to 1563 kg./ha in 1998-99. Productivity of Rubber in India is the highest among major rubber producing countries.

Coconut: The Coconut Development Board is implementing various programmes with an outlay of Rs. 105.00 crores during 9th Plan, which *inter-alia*, include Production and distribution of quality planting material; Area expansion; Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement; Control of leaf eating caterpillars; and promotion of product diversification and by-product utilisation. The productivity of coconut in the country has increased from 5401 nuts / ha. in 1987-88 to 6898 nut/ha. in 1997-98. India ranks first in production and productivity of coconut in the world.

Co-operative movement in North-Eastern Region

3554. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) has the backwardness of N.E. region in Co-operative movement has been kept in view in drawing up the central sector schemes; and

(b) if so, whether there is any centrally sponsored schemes exclusively for North-East Regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for cooperative, processing, marketing, storage programmes for cooperatively least developed States is being implemented through the NCDC.

(ii) 10 percent allocation of funds of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have been earmarked for the North Eastern States under all schemes.

(iii) An exclusive scheme of Technology Mission for the development of Horticulture in the NE States including Sikkim is also being contemplated.

Implementation of Central Schemes

3555. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Co-operation Division is implementing 13